21

Claims

1.   A multi media messaging system in a communications
network, arranged for sending and receiving messages between at least one
sender and at least one intended receiver, said system comprising:

            - at least one storage facility, arranged for storing at
least one message;

            - a controlling arrangement, adapted for controlling
storage of a message and for controlling access to a stored message;

            - an accessing arrangement, arranged for providing access
to a stored message, and

            - an alerting arrangement, arranged for providing an
intended receiver with an alert relating to the storage of a message,
characterized in that, said controlling arrangement is arranged for
storing and accessing a message under control of the sender of said
message.

2.   A system according to claim 1, wherein the or each storage
facility is assigned to the sender of a message.

3.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein
said controlling arrangement comprises means arranged for manipulating a
stored message by a sender, said manipulation including at least one of
reading, editing and removing a message stored under the control of said
sender.

4.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein
said alerting arrangement is arranged for controlling said alert by said
sender of a message.

5.   A system according to claim 4, wherein said alerting
arrangement comprises means arranged for manipulating an alert, said
manipulation including at least one of reading, editing and removing an
alert under the control of said sender.

6.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein

said controlling arrangement is arranged for including additional information with a stored message.

7.		A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said alerting arrangement is arranged for including additional information with an alert.

8.		A system according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said additional information comprises one of the group including: a message identifier, at least one identification key for identifying at least one intended receiver, a telephone number, a URL, a message identifier, a subject, a personal identification number for access authorization and verification purposes, urgency of the message, validity or expiration time of the message, type of alert including a call attempt and a multimedia message, number of alerts, location of the storage facility of the message, key dates, message status and flags that will trigger transfer of notifiers of status changes to the sender.

9.		A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said controlling arrangement comprises means arranged for notifying a sender of a stored message of changes in a status of said message.

10.		A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said alerting arrangement comprises means arranged for notifying a sender of an alert of changes in a status of said alert.

11.		A system according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said status comprises one of the group including "sent", "not read", "read", "expired", "reminded" and "settled".

12.		A system according to any of the preceding claims wherein said controlling arrangement is accessible by means of an interface, including a graphical user interface, a voice control interface, an interactive voice response interface and a Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency interface.

13.		A system according to any of the preceding claims wherein said alerting arrangement is accessible by means of an interface,

including a graphical user interface, a voice control interface, an interactive voice response interface and a Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency interface.

14.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said controlling arrangement comprises validating means, arranged for verification and authorization of a subscriber to the communications network attempting to access a stored message, for establishing whether said subscriber is the intended receiver of said message, before granting access to said message by said subscriber.

15.   A system according to claim 14, dependent on claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein said validating means are arranged for verification and authorization of said subscriber using said additional information.

16.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said alerting arrangement is arranged for including in said alert information as how to access a stored message.

17.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said controlling arrangement is arranged for storing and accessing a message under control of the intended receiver of said message.

18.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said alerting arrangement is arranged for controlling said alert by said intended receiver.

19.   A system according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the extent of said control is defined by said sender.

20.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said accessing arrangement is arranged for providing access to an intended receiver of a message under access conditions defined by said sender of said message.

21.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said accessing arrangement is accessible by means of an interface, including a graphical user interface, a voice control interface, an interactive voice response interface and a Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency

interface.

22.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said storage facility is distributed over said communications network.

23.   A system according to any of the previous claims, arranged for sending and receiving messages including voice mail messages, short messages, email messages and video mail.

24.   A system according to any of the previous claims, arranged for providing alerts in message form, including voice mail messages, short messages, email messages and video mail.

25.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said alert takes the shape of a form for processing and displaying by a graphic user interface, said form comprising information of at one least message for said intended receiver.

26.   A system according to claim 25, wherein said graphic user interface is arranged for duplex transfer of data, and wherein said form is an interactive form.

27.   A system according to any of the previous claims, wherein said communications network comprises at least one of group comprised by telecommunications and data networks, including the Internet, a Public Switched Telephone Network, an Integrated Services Digital network, and a Public Land Mobile Network.

28.   A terminal for use in the system according to any of the previous claims, said terminal comprising control means arranged for interfacing with at least one of said controlling, alerting and accessing arrangements.

29.   A network node arrangement for use in a communications network, said network node arrangement comprises a controlling arrangement, arranged for controlling storage of a message and for controlling access to a stored message; an accessing arrangement, arranged for providing access to a stored message, and an alerting arrangement, arranged for providing an intended receiver with an alert

25

relating to the storage of a message in accordance with any of the previous claims.

30.   A method of sending and receiving multi media messages in a communications network, between at least one sender and at least one intended receiver of a message, said method comprising the steps of:

- storing by said sender of at least one message in at least one storage facility, arranged for storing at least one message,

- alerting at least one intended receiver by an alert relating to the storage of a message, and

- providing access to a stored message,

characterized in that, said message is stored and accessed under control of the sender of said message.

31.   A method according to claim 30, wherein the or each storage facility is assigned to said sender of a message, and wherein said sender selects a storage facility for storing a message.

32.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 31, further comprising the step of manipulating a stored message by said sender, said manipulation including at least one of reading, editing and removing said message stored under the control of said sender.

33.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 32, further comprising the step of controlling said alert by said sender of a message:

34.   A method according to claims 33, further comprising the step of manipulating an alert, said manipulation including at least one of reading, editing and removing said alert under the control of said sender.

35.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 34, further comprising the step of including additional information with a stored message.

36.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 35, further comprising the step of including additional information with an alert.

37.   A method according to claim 35 or 36, wherein said additional information comprises one of the group including: a message identifier, at least one identification key for identifying at least one intended receiver, a telephone number, a URL, a message identifier, a subject, a personal identification number for access authorization and verification purposes, urgency of the message, validity or expiration time of the message, type of alert including a call attempt and a multimedia message, number of alerts, location of the storage facility of the message, key dates, message status and flags that will trigger transfer of notifiers of status changes to the sender.

38.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 37, further comprising the step of notifying a sender of a stored message of changes in a status of said message.

39.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 38, further comprising the step of notifying a sender of an alert of changes in a status of said alert.

40.   A method according to claim 38 or 39, wherein said status comprises one of the group including "sent", "not read", "read", "expired", "reminded" and "settled".

41.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 40, further comprising the step of validating a subscriber to the communications network attempting to access a stored message, for establishing whether said subscriber is the intended receiver of said message, before granting access to said message by said subscriber, said validation includes verification and authorization of said subscriber.

42.   A method according to claim 41, dependent on claim 35, 36 or 37, wherein said validation of said subscriber is performed using said additional information.

43.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 42, further comprising the step of including in said alert information as how to access a stored message.

44.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 43, further comprising the step of storing and accessing a message under control of the intended receiver of said message.

45.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 44, further comprising the step of controlling said alert by said intended receiver.

46.   A method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein the extent of said control is defined by said sender.

47.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 46, further comprising the step of providing access to an intended receiver of a message under access conditions defined by said sender of said message.

48.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 47, further comprising the step of sending and receiving messages including voice mail messages, multimedia messages, short messages, email messages and video mail.

49.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 48, further comprising the step of providing alerts in message form, including voice mail messages, multimedia messages, short messages, email messages and video mail.

50.   A method according to any of the claims 30 - 49, further comprising the step of providing said alert with the shape of an interactive form, for processing and displaying by a graphic user interface, said form comprising information of at least one message for said intended receiver.